“Blessed are those who have not seen but yet have believed.”

John 20:29

Sunday, April 23, 2017
I don’t blame Thomas; I probably wouldn’t have believed the other disciples either. Jesus, please bless me with faith to believe in you, even when I fail to see.

GOD’S WORD FOR THIS WEEK
In the face of doubt, Christ gives us proof and peace. To the doubting disciples, he gave certain proof that led to certain peace. Through his Word and sacraments, Jesus gives the same proof to all people of all time. “Peace be with you,” said our Lord. Then he sent his people forth with this message of peace based on the proof of his resurrection.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS
Large print copies of today’s service are available for you on the back tables by the ushers.
### SERVING US TODAY

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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgist</td>
<td>Pastor Bowe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preacher</td>
<td>Pastor Siemers</td>
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<td>Radio Sponsor</td>
<td>Memorial: Alice Stroesenreuther</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar Flowers</td>
<td>Evelyn &amp; Joyce Plowman - In memory of Joyce’s sister, Caroline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Sandy Jaber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>8:00 am: Eric Spindt, Andrew Carlin, Joel Camann, Mark Carlovsky 10:30 am: Mick Solberg, Gary Williams, Justin Johnson, David Q. Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeters</td>
<td>8:00 am: Dan &amp; Patricia Waller 10:30 am: Dick &amp; Ginny Cartwright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar Guild</td>
<td>April 16-30: Judy Suhs, Cheryl Diener</td>
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### Order of Worship

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Second Sunday of Easter Worship

The sure testimony of the resurrection is placed before us today. Jesus’ resurrection is attested to by the Scriptures and by eyewitnesses. Faith hears this testimony and rejoices in sure and certain hope in Jesus. Those who have such faith are declared blessed by the risen Christ.

LITURGY

Service of Word and Sacrament

CW pg. 26

OPENING HYMN CW #143

“He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

1 He’s risen, he’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary,
3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
4 Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;

He opened death’s prison, the incarnate Word.
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
And death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, his foes.
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.

Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain.

And earth, sea, and mountain the praises prolong.
For Jesus was slain, whom the civil ones fear.
He lives, yes, he lives, and will never more die.
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.

Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church 4 Sunday, April 23, 2017
M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS
M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.
M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Hymn CW #265

“This Is the Feast of Victory”

Pastor sings the verses; congregation sings the refrain.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, And
3 Sing with all the people of God, And
4 Blessing, honor, glory, and might Be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -

blood set us free to be people of God.
hon - or, blessing, and glory are his.
join in the hymn of all creation.
gun his reign. Alleluia!

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**BE SEATED**

**THE WORD**

**FIRST LESSON**

Acts 10:34a, 36, 39-43

Then Peter began to speak:

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”
Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 23, 2017

PSALM OF THE DAY

Verses sung responsively; all sing refrain

M: Keep me safe, O God,*
C: for in you I take refuge.

M: I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord;*
C: apart from you I have no good thing.”

M: I have set the LORD always before me.*
C: Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

ALL: Refrain

M: My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;*
C: my body also will rest secure,

M: because you will not abandon me to the grave,*
C: nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

M: You have made known to me the path of life;*
C: you will fill me with joy in your presence.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

ALL: Refrain
SECOND LESSON

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

VERSE OF THE DAY Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John 20:29b)

STAND
GOSPEL  
John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED
SERMON

1 Peter 1:3-9

Cash in Your Easter Inheritance Now

1. Live as one reborn
2. Rejoice amid trials

STAND

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED
OFFERING
Members and visitors are asked to fill out the Friendship Register (located at the end of the row, near the center aisle) as it is passed during the offering.

STAND

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH for EASTER SEASON
M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.
C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.
C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.
M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.
C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.
M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.
C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.
M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.
M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.
M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:
C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.
LORD’S PRAYER
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

SCRIPTURAL COMMUNION PRACTICE - Following the teaching of our Lord Jesus about his supper, we practice Close Communion. Jesus instituted this meal for those who share the same faith. When we eat this meal, we confess our unity of faith. "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we invite to communion only those who are united in faith with us; members of Immanuel, the Wisconsin Synod (WELS), and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). If you are visiting our worship service today, please speak with one of the pastors before communing. If you have any questions about this, we would be glad to help answer them after the service.

M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
M: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glory.
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.
BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION HYMN CW #147
“Like the Golden Sun Ascending”

DISTRIBUTION HYMN CW #167
“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”

THANKSGIVING

STAND

THANK THE LORD

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev’ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with

shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!
M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.


BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN CW #162

“He is Arisen! Glorious Word”
NEXT WEEK’S BIBLE READINGS

Acts 2: 14a, 36-47
1 Peter 1:17-21

IN OUR PRAYERS

Pray for Pastor Bowe as he deliberates his calls.

CALL RECEIVED

On Sunday, April 2, Pastor Bowe received a call to serve as pastor at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City, OK. Please keep Pastor Bowe and Erica in your prayers as he considers where he can best serve our Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On the first Easter, Mary Magdalene and His disciples discover “The Empty Tomb” (John 20:1–18). In Sunday School today, the children learned how Jesus comes to us in His Word, so that the Spirit gives us faith to believe in Christ’s resurrection and comforts us when we mourn the death of loved ones. You might discuss, “How did Jesus’ followers react when they discovered the empty tomb? How can we share the message of the resurrection?”

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

We will conclude our study of the book of Hebrews today.

NEW BIBLE STUDY - APRIL 30 - LESSONS FROM LUTHER YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In 1530 the Reformation of the Christian church was in full swing. Martin Luther’s popularity had pushed his writings to the top of the best-seller list. What if you had a chance to hear him speak? What if you could sit at the feet of this scholar of Scripture who taught crowds of not just princes but also peasants? Well, you can. In our upcoming Bible study, Lessons from Luther Yesterday and Today, you will engage with this master teacher in the study of topics such as prayer, marriage, the Lord’s Supper, and teaching children—topics still at the heart of your Christian faith today. Join us at the feet of Luther! We will begin this Bible Study in our Sunday morning Bible Classes beginning April 30 at 9:15 am. It will go through May 28.

QUARTERLY MEETING

We will hold our quarterly meeting on Sunday, May 7, following our 10:30 am worship service.
CONFIRMATION and EXAMINATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church will celebrate Confirmation on Sunday, April 30, in the 10:30 am worship service. We will confirm 5 students. They are: Cassidy Behm, Marissa Cartwright, Haylie Jones, William Kleiber and Cameron Niemuth. Our Confirmation Examination Service will be Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm during the worship service.

We will also celebrate the Lord’s Supper on Sunday, April 30 in our worship services.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Our Thursday night worship services will resume on Thursday, April 27, at 7:00 pm

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women’s Bible Study will continue on Monday, April 24, at 4:30 pm. This class meets on the second & fourth Monday of each month at 4:30 pm.

This week we will continue our study of "Women Encountering Jesus." Each study will lead us into the Bible to see what we can find out about a particular woman who met Jesus. Our next encounter is with the “The Woman Who Washed Jesus’ Feet.” We will find out as much as we can about her and apply the lesson Jesus taught to our own lives. Come join us as we learn from our Savior.

VISTITORS NEEDED

If you are interested in visiting our homebound members monthly, please speak with Pastor Siemers or Ginny Cartwright.

ALTAR FLOWERS

We have openings on the schedule if you would like to provide flowers for the church altar on Sunday mornings. If you would like to provide flowers, sign up on the sheet on the table in the fellowship hall or call the church office.

MAY USHERS

The following gentlemen are scheduled to usher for the month of May: 8:00 am - Bob Heschke, Kyle Heschke, Bob Koch, Mark Hartwig; 10:30 am - Philip Mihna, Joe Mihna, Verlin Sellin, Marvin Van Asten. Gentlemen, if you are scheduled to usher and cannot be here, please arrange for a substitute before Sunday morning.

USHERS NEEDED

Many of our ushering teams are shorthanded. Gentlemen, if you would like to usher, please sign up in the entry way.
SENIOR CHOIR
Please note that on Wednesday, April 26, there will be no Senior Choir. Bell rehearsal will begin at 6:30 p.m. The church calendar has it listed incorrectly.

SCRIP
Our next order will be placed on Monday, May 1. If you have any questions call me or see me after first service or after Bible class. Thanks for your help.

Ed Berg, 715-258-3295

STEWARDSHIP CORNER
In the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:5-25), Jesus described the types of soil in which seeds either thrive or wither away and die. Realizing that the soil Jesus talked about is our hearts, we also come to understand that we can prepare our hearts so that the seed of faith which the Holy Spirit plants in us can flourish.

As we read and study His Word and go to church where it is preached and taught and participate in the Sacraments and come before God in prayer, He will equip and enable us to be the servants He has called us to be.

Even though our hearts are rocky at times, hard and unyielding at others, and filled with thorns and weeds at still other times, God continues to work in us and through us. He forgives our many sins and develops in us the qualities necessary to be His faithful stewards.

Prayer: Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, thank You for changing and molding me through Your Word. Soften my heart so I am always receptive to hearing the Gospel. Amen.
38th Annual WELS National Handbell Festival

April 30, 2017 - 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by: St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

Event location: Lincoln High School
1801 16th Street S.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Master teachers are a rare find. Their teachings transcend centuries and impact learners well after them. Martin Luther, the father of the Lutheran church, was a teacher from whom we can still learn lessons about prayer, marriage, and freedom. Engage with Martin Luther and one another in a study of topics still at the heart of your Christian faith today. Join us in learning lessons from Luther.

Classes will begin on Sunday, April 30 @ 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall and run through May 28.
APRIL 23-30, 2017

Sunday, April 23, 2016

WORSHIP w/communion  8:00 & 10:30 am
Sunday School, Adult Bible Class  9:15 am

Monday

Women’s Bible Study  4:30 pm

Tuesday

LEMS  6:45 pm

Wednesday

NO SENIOR CHOIR
Senior Bells  6:30 pm

Thursday

Confirmation Examination Service  7:00 pm

Saturday

Handbell Festival in Wisconsin Rapids

Sunday, April 30, 2017

WORSHIP w/communion  8:00 am
Sunday School, Teens, Adult Bible Class  9:15 am

Confirmation WORSHIP w/communion  10:30 am
Handbell Festival Concert  2:00 pm

Lincoln High School
1801 16th Street S
Wisconsin Rapids, WI  54494
Welcome to Immanuel

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. If you have any questions during your time with us today, please ask an usher for assistance. If you would like to know more about our church, our teaching, or the studies and programs offered at Immanuel, please introduce yourself to one of our pastors. They would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way they can.

Worship Schedule:
Sundays at 8:00 am (broadcast live on WDXF-FM 92.7)
Sundays at 10:30 am (June, July, August at 9:30 am)
Thursdays at 7:00 pm (April - November)